will the irregular impulses of superstition be able to stem the ever-flowing torrent. With a variety of impelling, but no regulating principles, he is driven to or from his religious offices, to or from his favourite indulgences, according to the direction of the current which happens to prevail at the time.

Still less can these systems quicken, refine, and spiritualize the soul, impart to it a steady cheerfulness, or become an ever-flowing source of comfort. Such effects cannot follow from a scheme which gives no God, or a God without moral qualities, or a God supposed to be capricious. These effects can flow only from belief in a God, the governor and judge of all, ever restraining and punishing, as he ever hates sin, and yet withal as loving and merciful as he is just and holy.

SECT. VI.—METHOD OF ANSWERING PRAYER, AND FURTHERING SPIRITUAL ENDS.

Prayer is about the most elevated state of thought and feeling of which the mind is susceptible, reaching higher than the imagination of the poet when his eye is most excited, and his fancy takes its wildest flights ;, embracing more than the capacious thoughts of the philosopher, at the time when he has got the glimpse of some bright discovery just circling, like the sun, above the horizon, and throwing a flood of light on objects before wrapt in twilight obscurity. Can our understandings comprehend anything more enlarged than an omnipresent God ? Can our wisdom be more profoundly occupied than in fathoming the depths of the Divine counsels ? Can our imaginations mount higher than those third heavens in which the Divinity sits enthroned ? Can our faith and love repose anywhere more securely or delightfully than on the word and faithfulness of God ? How can the whole soul be so nobly or profitably employed as in holding communion with its Maker ? There is no affection of the mind which is not engaged in

prayer, except it be the bc^ser and the more depraved ones of our nature. Here is reverential awe stript of all the baseness of mere fear; here is hope, not the mere hope of earthly bliss, but of the favour of God, which, when enjoyed, is the fullest bliss. Here is faith, feeling itself ^firm and immovable in that being on whom it rests ; and here is love, kindled at the sight of everlasting love.